STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application for a High Voltage Transmission Line Route Permit for the Hiawatha Transmission Project

NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE AUGUST 4, 2009

This matter was referred to the Office of Administrative Hearings for a contested case proceeding, by Notice and Order for Hearing issued by the Public Utilities Commission on June 2, 2009. The Public Utilities Commission has jurisdiction over applications for route permits for large energy facilities, including this transmission line project, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.02, subd. 2.

At the time that the Commission's Order was issued, the only party to this proceeding was the Applicant, Northern States Power Company. The Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting Staff, has given notice of its intent to participate pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216E.03.

To date, no petitions to intervene have been filed with the Administrative Law Judge. Persons who have filed a Notice of Appearance without filing a petition to intervene must file the petition, as set forth in the Order, below.

Any person may appear at the hearings and offer testimony and exhibits without the necessity of intervening as a formal party to the proceedings. The Administrative Law Judge may allow any person to ask questions of other witnesses.

Any person may view and print all documents filed in this proceeding, with the exception of trade secret information, through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission website, by clicking on "search edockets," and entering the year (09) and number (38) for this proceeding into the "Basic Search."

Advice concerning the procedures to be followed in this proceeding is available from Tricia DeBleeckere, Facilities Planner, Minnesota Public Utilites Commission, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147, (651) 201-2254, or from staff attorneys at the Office of Administrative Hearings. In addition, the Office of Energy Security Facilities Permitting staff has been authorized to name a public advisor. Pursuant to Minn. R. 7849.5250, the public advisor is available to answer questions from the public about the permitting process.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1. A prehearing conference will be held on **August 4, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.,** at the Large Hearing Room, Public Utilities Commission, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN.
- 2. Any person who desires to intervene in this contested case as a party shall file a written petition to intervene with the Administrative Law Judge and shall serve the petition upon all existing parties, as set forth in Minn. R. 1400.6200.
- 3. Any party may object to the petition for intervention by filing a written notice of objection with the Administrative Law Judge within seven days of service of the petition, stating the party's reasons of objection, and shall serve a copy of the notice of objection on all other parties and the person seeking intervention.
- 4. The deadline to petition for intervention will be set at the prehearing conference.
- 5. Immediately following the prehearing conference, an informational session will be held for all interested persons to explain the electronic filing system ("edocket"), and the process for parties to file information requests (IRs), typically used in lieu of discovery in matters pending before the Public Utilities Commission. Familiarity with these processes is essential for any person who seeks to participate as a party to this proceeding.
- 6. Any person who needs an accommodation for a disability or appointment of an interpreter to participate in the Prehearing Conference shall notify the Office of Administrative Hearings by **July 28, 2009**.
- 7. This Order is being sent to all persons on the Public Utilities Commission service list for this proceeding, and to representatives of the Advisory Task Force. Any subsequent service in this contested case proceeding will be limited to parties to this proceeding.

Dated: July 2, 2009

s/Beverly Jones Heydinger
BEVERLY JONES HEYDINGER
Administrative Law Judge